

WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Wisbech Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Madam & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the general health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

Although this report appears over my signature, the Medical Officer of Health during the year was, of course, Dr. H.L. Groom, who has expressed his desire to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their encouragement and also Mr. Dixon, the Clerk to the Council and members of the staff for their loyal co-operation.

A. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	49,841.
Estimated resident population mid-1952	12,270.
Estimated resident population mid-1951	12,290.
Rateable value	£32,069.
Product of a penny rate	£127,18.1.
Number of inhabited dwellings	3,868.

Live births 228.

	M	F	Birth Rate Wisbech Rural (adjusted)	Administrative County	England and Wales
Total	120	108			
Legitimate	115	102			
Illegitimate	5	6	19.9	17.7	15.3

(Area Comparability Factor (Births) 1.07)
(Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident mid-1952 population)

Still Births 6.

	M	F	Still Birth Rate Wisbech Rural.	Administrative County	England and Wales
Total	4	2			
Legitimate	4	2			
Illegitimate	0	0	25.6	21.3	22.6

(Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births)

Deaths - All Causes - 114.

M	F	Death Rate Wisbech Rural (Adjusted)	Administrative County	England and Wales
60	54	9.1	9.8	11.3

(Area Comparability Factor (Deaths) 0.98)
(Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident mid-1952 population)

Deaths - Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion - nil.

Deaths - infants under 1 year of age - 5.

	M	F	Infant Mortality Rate Wisbech Rural	Administrative County	England and Wales
Total	3	2			
Legitimate	3	2			
Illegitimate	0	0	21.9	27.2	27.6

(Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births)

Deaths - infants under 4 weeks of age - 4.

	M	F	Rate Wisbech Rural	Rate per 1000 live births
Total	2	2		
Legitimate	2	2		
Illegitimate	0	0	17.5	

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 28.

B. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

1. Isle of Ely Executive Council, Bank House, West End, March.
Clark - A.R. Marsh, Esq.

2. East Anglian Regional Hospital Board, 117, Cherterton Rd. Cambridge.
Senior Administrative Medical Officer. - Dr. J.B. Ewen.

(a) General

North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.

Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech.

Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.

Addenbrooks Hospital, Cambridge.

(b) Maternity

County Maternity Home, Lynn Road, Wisbech.

(c) Infectious

Isolation Hospital, Peterborough.

(d) Sanatoria

Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.

Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt.

Papworth Hospitals.

(e) Mental

Fulbourn Hospital, Cambridge.

Little Plumstead, Norwich.

Risebridge Home, W. Suffolk.

St. Andrews Hospital, Norwich.

Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.

(f) Venereal Disease

Peterborough Memorial Hospital.

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

3. Midwifery, General Sick Nursing and Public Health Nursing.

The Nursing Staff is employed by the Isle of Ely County Council, either directly or by arrangement with the County Nursing Association under the National Health Services Act, 1946.

In the parishes given all those undertaking midwifery and general nursing are qualified to administer gas/air analgesia and Pethidine and the necessary number of gas/air machines are available for their use.

Elm, Upwell and Outwell.

Mrs. J.E.D. Benson,
8, Bungalow,
Gosmoor Lane,
E L M.
(Fridaybridge 246)

S.C.M.

Midwifery only.

Miss. G.A. Webster,
Halfpenny Lane,
E L M.
(Wisbech 1806)

S.C.M.
H.V. Cert.
Q.N.

Relief Midwife.
General Nursing.
Public Health Nursing.
School Nurse.

Miss. J. Parrott,
10, Crown Avenue,
CHRISTCHURCH.
(Christchurch 280)

S.C.M.
H.V. Cert.
Q.N.

Relief Midwife.
General Nursing.
Public Health Nursing.
School Nurse.

Wisbech St. Mary and Parson Drove.

Mrs. A.L. Guiver,
"Pitsdale",
LEVERINGTON.
(Wisbech St. Mary 244)

S.R.N.
S.C.M.

Midwifery only.

Miss. M.E. Joynt,
Nurses House,
Church Road,
WISBECH ST. MARY.
(Wisbech St. Mary 249)

S.C.M.
H.V. Cert.
Q.N.

Wisbech St. Mary -
General Nursing only.
Parson Drove - Public
Health Nursing.

Leverington, Newton and Tydd St. Giles.

Miss. E.M. Purdett,
"Belmont",
Front Road,
MURROW.
(Parson Drove 357)

S.C.M.
Q.N.

Midwifery.
General Nursing.

Mrs. Keable,
High Road,
GOREFIELD.

S.R.N.

Leverington - General
Nursing Only.

Miss. E.T. Taylor,
Leigh Bank,
Leverington Road,
WISBECH.

S.R.N.
S.C.M.

Health Visitor, Public
Health Nursing in the
Parishes not covered.
School Nurse for all
these parishes.

Miss. G. White,
10, Crown Avenue,
CHRISTCHURCH.
(Christchurch 280)

S.R.N.
Part 1 Mid. Cert.
H.V. Cert.

Tuberculosis Health
Visitor.

4. Ambulance and Hospital car Service

A County Council Service. There are three ambulances garaged at ~~Messrs. W.H. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Church Terrace, Wisbech~~ and also at this garage, one Infectious Disease ambulance.
Messrs. Denniss Transport, Sutton Road, Leverington.

5. County Medical Services

Infant Welfare Centres.

- (a) Wisbech (Walsoken Parish Hall)
 - (b) Guyhirn (Village Hall)
 - (c) Parson Drove (Church Hall)
 - (d) Leverington (Church Hall)
- (Commenced December 1952)

Friday
3rd Thursday
1st Wednesday
2nd Tuesday

School Minor Ailment Clinics.

- (a) County Clinic, Lynn Road, Wisbech.
- (b) Beaupre School, Outwell.

School Dental Clinic

Lynn Road, Wisbech. (Not in use in 1952)

6. Disinfection and Disinfestation

Premises - by the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Staff.
Bedding, clothing, etc., which cannot be dealt with by this department are sent to Peterborough Isolation Hosptial.

7. Laboratory Services

- (a) Public Health Laboratory Service,
Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge.
(Director - Dr. Fry)
- (b) Public Analyst,
S. Greenburgh, PH. D. B.Sc., F.R.I.C.,
25, St. Barnabas Road,
Cambridge.

C. NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

NOTIFICATIONS

Typhoid Fever	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0
Moningococcal Infection	0
Scarlot Fever	5
Whooping Cough	33
Diphthoria	0
Erysipelas	2
Smallpox	0
Measles	90
Pneumonia	1
Acute Poliomyelites (including polioencephalitis)	
Paralytic	1
Non-Paralytic	1
Food poisoning	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Tuberculosis (All forms)	3

Diphthoria Immunisation

Age Group	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Number	6	64	5	6	5	23	2	111

Reinforcement (or "Booster") injections 14.

D. HOUSING

Number of houses completed during 1952.

Council Houses	40	
Bungalows	8	
	<u>48</u>	Private 15.

Number of houses under construction at the end of 1952.

Council Houses	40	
Bungalows	30	
	<u>70</u>	Private 11.

Unfit houses. There are still approximately 565 unfit houses in the District inhabited by about 2,500 persons.

During the year Demolition Orders were made on 4 cottages, 4 cottages were demolished and undertakings given by owners not to re-let in respect of 3 cottages.

E. WATER SUPPLY

Extensions of water mains carried out in the period March 1952 - March 1953 amounted in total to 14,819 yards.

In this period also there were made 328 new connections and 33 new hydrants installed.

(Figures kindly supplied by J.K. Dawson Esq., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E. Water Engineer to Wisbech & District Water Board.)

I have the honour to be Madam & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant.

R. Gordon Thompson

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I

CAUSES OF DEATH 1952

Causes of Death		Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	0	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphthoria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	1	0	1
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	0	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	1	9
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	0	2	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	7	6	13
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	0	0	0
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	3	7	10
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	6	11
18.	Coronary disease, angina	2	2	4
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	6	10	16
20.	Other heart disease	3	2	5
21.	Other circulatory disease	0	0	0
22.	Influenza	2	1	3
23.	Pneumonia	5	2	7
24.	Bronchitis	0	0	0
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	3	0	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations	8	7	15
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	0	1
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	2	3
34.	All other accidents.	0	0	0
35.	Suicide	0	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
All causes		60	54	114

TABLE II

NEW CASES OF, AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS 1952

Age Period (Years)	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
- 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26 - 35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
36 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
46 - 55	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
56 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
66 x	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0

TABLE III

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Part I of the Act.

1.-INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspect ions (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occ. Prosecuted (6)	M/c lin No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	82	86	-	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	33	38	-	-	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total		115	124			

2.-Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Pros ecut ed. (7)	M/c lin No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remed ied. (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspect. (5)	By H.M. Inspect. (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4						4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of Floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient	9						9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10						10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11						11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	1	1				12
Total	60	1	1				60

To prevent any differences between the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 of the Factories Acts, 1937 are enforced by Local Authorities, it is requested that Local Authorities should compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 107 and 108)